United Nations E/CN.6/2009/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 December 2008

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-third session
2-13 March 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS;
      (ii) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session.

08-65120 (E) 060109

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women, at the 1st meeting of its fifty-second session, on 9 March 2007, elected, by acclamation, Olivier Belle (Belgium) as Chairperson and Ara Margarian (Armenia), Enna Park (Republic of Korea) and Julio Peralta (Paraguay) as Vice-Chairpersons of the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission.[1]

The Commission will appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. At the 16th meeting of the fifty-second session, on 7 March 2008, the Commission decided that in the absence of any nominations, candidates for membership in the Working Group would be permitted to participate fully in the work of the Working Group upon nomination by their respective regional groups.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2008/236.

Preparations for the fifty-third session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

[1] The list of members of the Commission at its fifty-third session is contained in annex II to the present document.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables, and it authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested members of the Commission through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of such round tables.

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council further decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table at the fifty-third session will focus on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Documentation

Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the high-level round table on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2009/12)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-third session, the Commission will consider the theme "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS".

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

In 2006, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's priority themes for 2007 to 2009 and its new methods of work. In accordance with Council resolution 2006/9, the Commission will decide on its new multi-year programme of work, including priority themes, for the period 2010-2014.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2009/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the period 2010-2014 of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2009/3)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Following consultation, the Bureau decided that the Commission would hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue "The gender perspectives of the financial crisis".

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2008/11 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-third session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

In its resolution 52/4, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the resolution, with a view to assessing the impact of the feminization of HIV/AIDS.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women and resolutions 1997/43 and 2005/42 of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it a report on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the (former) Commission on Human Rights.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its fortieth and forty-first sessions will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the Committee's forty-second and forty-third sessions will also be before the Commission.

Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

In its resolution 52/3, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of the resolution to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2009, through the Commission at its fifty-third session.

Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2010-2011

Programme matters

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2010-2011 (subprogramme 2 of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2009/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2009/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2009/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/10/42-E/CN.6/2009/7)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/10/43-E/CN.6/2009/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/2009/11)

Documents for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fortieth and forty-first sessions (A/63/38)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2009/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/CN.6/2009/CRP.2)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet

to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its decision 50/102, the Commission decided to postpone until its fifty-second session further consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2) and the different views and proposals put forward by Member States during the debate on the item at its forty-eighth session, in 2004.

In its decision 52/101, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to postpone its consideration of the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women until its fifty-third session and requested the Secretary-General to prepare for that purpose an addendum to the report on the future work of the Working Group (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2) compiling additional or updated written views of Member States.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2009/SW/COMM.LIST/43/R and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2009/8)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions are invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2009 high-level segment of the Council.

Documentation

Letter dated 3 December 2008 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2009/9)

Note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health (E/CN.6/2009/13)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-third session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 2 March		
10 a.m.	1. Election of officers	Membership in the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Introduction of reports General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS	High-level round table on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme
Tuesday, 3 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS	Interactive expert panel on key policy initiatives on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS
3 p.m.	3 (c). Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters	An interactive expert panel on building capacity for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 4 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
Thursday, 5 March		
10 a.m.	(Commemorative event)[a]	Observance of International Women's Day (2 hours)
12 p.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (b). Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men	Interactive expert panel on the emerging issue "The gender perspectives of the financial crisis"
Friday, 6 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (ii). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels"	Interactive dialogue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels"
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
Monday, 9 March		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Tuesday, 10 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 11 March		
10 a.m.-12 noon	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
12 noon-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Introduction of draft proposals
Thursday, 12 March		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	Expert panel on "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health: a gender perspective"
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Friday, 13 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	6. Provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission	Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission
3 p.m.	7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the fifty-third session

[a] Informal event to be held in the margins of the fifty-third session of the Commission.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session (2009)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Armenia	2011
Azerbaijan	2011
Belgium	2011
Belize	2009
Brazil	2011
Cambodia	2011
Cameroon	2010
China	2012
Croatia	2009
Cuba	2012
Djibouti	2010
Dominican Republic	2012
Ecuador	2010
Eritrea	2012
Gabon	2011
Germany	2009
Haiti	2012
India	2012
Indonesia	2010
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2010
Japan	2009
Lesotho	2010
Malaysia	2010
Mali	2009
Mexico	2010

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Morocco	2009
Namibia	2011
Netherlands	2009
Niger	2011
Pakistan	2011
Paraguay	2011
Peru	2009
Qatar	2009
Republic of Korea	2010
Russian Federation	2012
Senegal	2012
Spain	2011
Sweden	2012
Togo	2010
Turkey	2011
United Arab Emirates	2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2009
United Republic of Tanzania	2009
United States of America	2012
Zambia	2010